

mother, co-worker, employer, or fellow church member. She was extraordinary because she excelled in each of these roles. She was a woman for all seasons.

Ann Wilson was born in 1965 in the Bronx of Irish stock, the daughter of Thomas and Francis Kilcourse. She graduated from St. John the Baptist High School in West Islip, New York, and earned a degree in political science from the Catholic University of America. She worked in New York City before moving to Johnstown, the hometown of her husband, Bill.

In the mountains of western Pennsylvania, this daughter of the Bronx became an adopted daughter of Johnstown, and she has thrived there. She brought into the world three beautiful children: Katie, Billy, and Clara, whom she and Bill loved dearly. And while she was raising her family, Ann pursued her professional calling with excellence and determination as the marketing director of The Gleason Agency.

Her energy was incomparable. The energy of her professional work could also be seen in her commitment to public service. In 2005, Ann made her first attempt at public office and won a 4-year term on the Johnstown City Council. She took the oath of office in January 2006 and was the first Republican woman elected to the council. Notably, Ann was the top vote-getter on the ticket, beating out seven incumbents. In a city where Democrats outnumber Republicans 7-3, she was the top vote-getter, demonstrating her broad bipartisan appeal.

□ 1010

She was reelected in 2009 and appointed deputy mayor of Johnstown in January of 2010. She also served as executive director and later chairman of the Cambria County Republican Committee. In 2012, Governor Tom Corbett appointed her to the Pennsylvania Commission for Women, and she was elected as a delegate to the 2012 Republican National Convention.

While her energy and professional accomplishments were remarkable, the two things that mattered most to her were her family and her church. Mrs. Wilson lived for her husband and children, and she rarely missed a sporting or school event that involved the kids. She loved family time and family vacations, and she was deeply committed to her Catholic faith. She was also a strong advocate for the right to life and compassion for all.

In a world and time given to cynicism and doubt, Ann Wilson stands out in stark contrast. She is a role model for excellence in family life, professional work, and community engagement. Indeed, she was full of passion for the things of life that really mattered.

It is a privilege to stand here today to remember Mrs. Ann Wilson of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Her family's and Johnstown's loss is Heaven's gain. May she rest in peace and may her family be comforted in their loss. She

will be missed not only by her husband and children, but by her community.

PROJECT EXILE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the talk around town is the paranoid gun control crowd that want more gun restrictions and more government control over guns.

If they had their way, some of them would actually outlaw the Second Amendment, and the result would be that the people would have no guns. The only ones that would have guns would be the government and, of course, criminals who ignore gun laws. I call it the "Mexico model."

Guns are outlawed in Mexico. The citizens cannot possess guns. There is no Second Amendment and so the government has guns and criminals have guns. Some of those criminals have guns thanks in part to the United States Government sending 2,000 assault weapons to them in *Fast and Furious*. But that's another story.

U.S. cities are moving toward the Mexico model. Chicago and Washington, D.C., have laws that make it very difficult for a citizen to exercise the Second Amendment. These cities make it difficult to even own a firearm. But all three places—Mexico, Chicago, Washington, D.C.—all have a reputation of being violent, unsafe places. Why? Because they are.

If D.C. was so safe, why are government guards everywhere in the city? Even here in this Capitol building, there are armed guards on the roof, at the doors, at the back doors, at the doors over to the east and to the west. It's hypocritical of the gun control crowd in this Chamber to say "more guns for me, but not for thee."

If these cities were safe, gun control laws would work, but they don't work. But there is a Federal law that the city of Richmond, Virginia, took advantage of, and it goes back to 1997. Richmond, Virginia, was one of the top five U.S. cities with the highest per capita murder rate in the United States. So the city used a Federal law to help them control the crime problem. Project Exile is the name. The local and State government voluntarily cooperated with the United States Attorney's Office in gun prosecutions.

Here's how it works: if a local or State law enforcement official arrested some criminal for a felony offense but the person also had a gun, the State official could voluntarily transfer the case to Federal court because in Federal court the person could be prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office and get an additional 5 years in the Federal penitentiary because the criminal, the drug dealer, had a firearm in their possession.

It's a simple plan that worked quite well. In fact, it worked so well that in the first year Richmond, Virginia's

homicide rate was down 33 percent. By 1999, homicides in Richmond, Virginia, were down 97 percent—all because the criminal was prosecuted for unlawfully possessing a firearm and the government put their resources where they should: prosecuting criminals that use guns in the commission of their offense.

The law held the criminal accountable and exiled him out of the community. That's where the phrase "Project Exile" comes from. He was exiled from the community to the Federal penitentiary where other criminals were.

Lock the gun-toting crooks up and send them away. What a novel idea: a law that's already on the books. Maybe violent cities like Chicago and Washington, D.C., should look at Project Exile and hold criminals accountable for the violence that they commit and not be misguided by some who continue to assault the Second Amendment and not punish criminals.

Maybe our system should focus on the person who commits the crime with the weapon as opposed to trying to punish really good folks that own firearms and exercise their right under the Second Amendment to bear arms.

And that's just the way it is.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 16 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this Chamber, where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live and for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people, that through the difficulties of these days, we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

Grant an extra measure of wisdom and perseverance to the Members of this House, that the difficulties facing our Nation might be addressed to the benefit of all.

Give to us and all people a vivid sense of Your presence, that we may learn to understand each other, to respect each other, to work with each other, to live with each other, and to do good to each other. So shall we

make our Nation great in goodness and good in its greatness.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPPS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HEALTH CARE CONSCIENCE RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, our Founders believed that conscience and religious rights occupied the highest rung on the civil liberty protection ladder. The Obama administration has fallen short of these expectations.

As a fifth-generation Montanan and a person of faith, I know that my faith does not begin and end at the doors of our church. Living the principles of what I believe is a key part of my faith.

But under the Affordable Care Act, religious institutions and employers, as well as health care providers who hold religious and moral convictions, are stripped of their religious freedoms. Religious institutions and employers are forced to pay for coverage of contraceptive methods. Health care providers do not have the protection to refuse to perform abortion services that they are morally opposed to. That is a violation of the First Amendment.

That is why I am proud to help introduce the Health Care Conscience Rights Act, which will uphold our constitutional rights of religious freedom and uphold our moral calling to practice life-affirming health care.

UPHOLDING VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I joined a trip led by Congressman JOHN LEWIS to some of the landmark sites of the civil rights struggle, culminating in a walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the 48th anniversary of that historic march. The trip underscored the importance of the Voting Rights Act, which is responsible for much of the progress we have made toward eliminating voter discrimination, and the need for the Supreme Court to uphold section 5 of the law in the case pending before it.

Meanwhile, in Congress, we should be working to eliminate the inexcusably long lines at polling places across the country and ensure that every American who wants to cast a ballot is able to do so.

Decades ago, Congressman LEWIS helped lead the fight for the idea that all Americans should be able to participate in our democratic process. It is my hope that the Supreme Court and this Congress will honor that struggle in the years ahead.

SEQUESTER AND FEDERAL SPENDING

(Mr. BENTIVOLIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, before I came to Washington, I was a high school teacher. To be a good teacher, I had to make things understandable for my students in the classroom. With the budget, I knew that there had to be an easier way to explain the numbers I was looking at to the people who sent me to Washington. Thomas Jefferson once wrote that an informed public was vital to our continuing democracy. I would like to share with you how the sequester affects Federal spending.

Spending is expected to be around \$3.8 trillion; that's the number 38 followed by 11 zeros. The sequester is \$85 billion; that's the number 85 followed by nine zeros. That's a lot of money.

The best way to understand these numbers is to take eight zeros off of both of them. The President is complaining that we are taking an equivalent of \$850 from a budget of \$38,000. This is all pretty hypocritical after he forced hardworking Americans who actually have to live on \$38,000 a year to pay another \$760 or so in increased taxes as part of his fiscal cliff deal.

The people in my district want us to get serious about the enormous spending that's happening here in Congress. We should be able to have a reduction in the increase of spending without acting as if it will cause the end of the world.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS). The gentleman is reminded to avoid inappropriate references to the President.

SEQUESTRATION ISN'T A SOLUTION

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I visited Core Composites, a company located in Bristol in my home State of Rhode Island. Because of sequestration, this small business has been notified that funding for a government contract will be reduced by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

I also recently met with Alexion, a pharmaceutical manufacturer in Rhode Island, whose FDA approval of a life-saving drug will likely be delayed because of sequestration. Countless other small businesses across our country are facing these same challenges today because Washington failed to take action to avoid sequestration.

Sequestration isn't a solution to our Federal deficit; it's a penalty that goes into effect because Republicans and Democrats failed to work together to responsibly reduce the deficit. And it's a penalty that will place a heavy toll on hardworking men and women across our country.

We spend a lot of time fighting in Washington. Now it's time for us to work together to reach a commonsense solution on this issue. Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN has offered a very detailed alternative to sequestration that I'm proud to cosponsor that would cut spending responsibly, repeal subsidies to Big Oil, adopt the Buffett rule, and preserve the Medicare guarantee for seniors. Rather than pointing fingers, we should be looking at this and other reasonable alternatives that would provide critical relief for working families right now.

□ 1210

HONORING THE LIFE OF RALPH WALDO ELLISON

(Mr. LANKFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to be able to pay honor to a man who deserves honor. March 1 would have been Ralph Waldo Ellison's—we know him as Ralph Ellison—100th birthday.

Ralph Ellison is a proud son of Oklahoma City. He's a graduate of Douglas High School in Oklahoma City. He hopped trains to Tuskegee to go to Tuskegee College on a music scholarship.

He's a musician, he's a sculptor, and he's the writer of the famous work, "Invisible Man." It was the defining work of African American literature in the 1950s, and still continues today as being one of the defining works to be able to point our culture to not ignore racial injustice, social injustice, and economic injustice that still occurs in our Nation today.

His work ethic, his passion for education, and his passion for justice is a